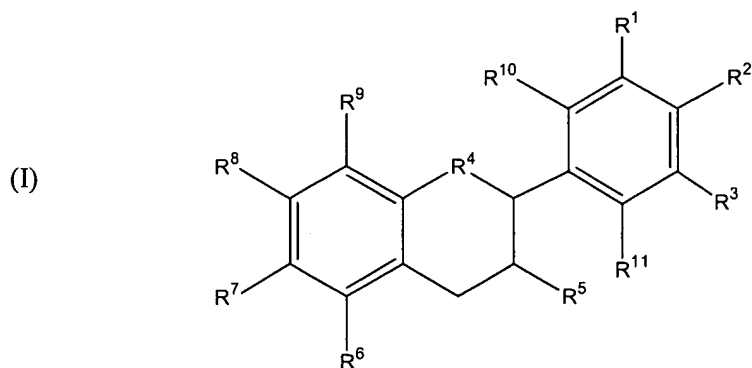


WE CLAIM:

1. A compound having the structural formula (I)



wherein:

R¹, R² and R³ are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, halo, sulfhydryl, alkoxy, and aryloxy, and further wherein either R¹ and R², or R² and R³, can be linked to form a cyclic group;

R⁴ is selected from O, S, NR^x, and CR^yR^z, wherein R^x, R^y, and R^z are hydrogen or alkyl;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of SH, acyloxy, and N(R^x) wherein the R^x may be the same or different and are as defined previously;

R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, and aryloxy, providing that either R⁶ and R⁷, or R⁸ and R⁹, may be linked together to form a cyclic structure selected from five-membered rings, six-membered rings, and fused five-membered and/or six-membered rings, wherein the cyclic structure is aromatic, alicyclic, heteroaromatic, or heteroalicyclic, and has zero to 4 non-hydrogen substituents and zero to 3 heteroatoms; and

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxy, and halo,

with the proviso that when (a) R⁷, R⁹, R¹⁰, and R¹¹ are hydrogen, (b) R¹, R², R⁶, and R⁸ are hydroxyl, (c) R³ is hydrogen or hydroxyl, and (d) R⁴ is O, then (e) R⁵ is other than 3,4,5-trihydroxybenzoyloxy or 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoyloxy.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R¹, R² and R³ are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, halo, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, and C₅-C₁₂ aryloxy, and

further wherein either R^1 and R^2 , or R^2 and R^3 , can be joined to form a two-atom or three-atom linkage selected from alkylene, substituted alkylene, and heteroalkylene;

R^4 is selected from O, S, NH and CH_2 ;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of C_6 - C_{32} acyloxy and NH_2 ;

R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, and C_5 - C_{12} aryloxy, or R^6 and R^7 are linked together to form a cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, or phenyl ring, and R^8 and R^9 are hydrogen, or R^8 and R^9 are linked together to form a cyclohexyl, cyclopentyl, or phenyl ring, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen; and

R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, and halo.

3. The compound of claim 2, wherein R^4 is O.

4. The compound of claim 3, wherein R^7 , R^9 , R^{10} and R^{11} are hydrogen.

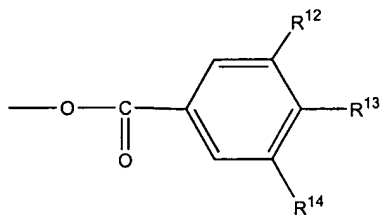
5. The compound of claim 4, in enantiomerically pure form in the $2\beta,3\beta$ -*cis*, $2\alpha,3\alpha$ -*cis*, $2\alpha,3\beta$ -*trans*, or $2\beta,3\alpha$ -*trans* configuration.

6. The compound of claim 4, comprising a racemic mixture of the $2\alpha,3\beta$ -*trans* and $2\beta,3\alpha$ -*trans* enantiomers.

7. The compound of claim 4, comprising a racemic mixture of the $2\alpha,3\alpha$ -*cis* and $2\beta,3\beta$ -*cis* enantiomers.

8. The compound of claim 4, wherein:

R^5 is an acyloxy substituent having the structure



in which R^{12} , R^{13} , and R^{14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxy, and aryloxy, such that the compound has the structure of formula (III).

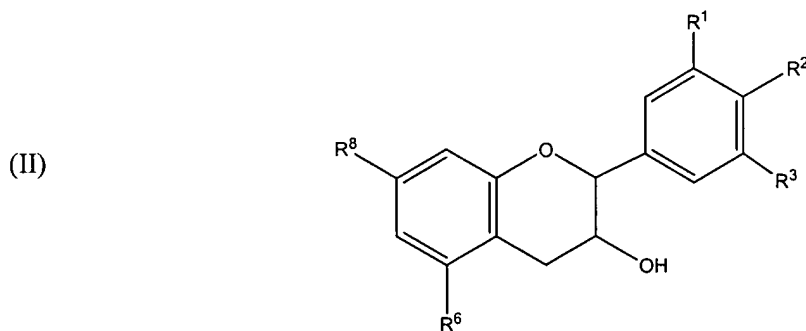
9. The compound of claim 8, wherein:

R^{12} , R^{13} , and R^{14} are selected from the groups consisting of hydroxyl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, and C_5 - C_{12} aryloxy.

10. The compound of claim 9, wherein:

R^{12} , R^{13} , and R^{14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, methyl, and methoxy, and benzyloxy.

11. A compound having the structural formula (II)



wherein:

R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, alkyl, halo, sulfhydryl, alkoxy, and aryloxy, and further wherein either R^1 and R^2 , or R^2 and R^3 , can be linked to form a cyclic group; and

R^6 and R^8 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, and aryloxy, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^6 and R^8 are not all the same.

12. The compound of claim 11, wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, halo, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, and C_5 - C_{12} aryloxy, and further wherein either R^1 and R^2 , or R^2 and R^3 , can be joined to form a two-atom or three-atom linkage selected from alkylene, substituted alkylene, and heteroalkylene; and

R^6 and R^8 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, and C_5 - C_{12} aryloxy.

13. The compound of claim 12, wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are independently selected from hydroxyl, methyl, and methoxy; and

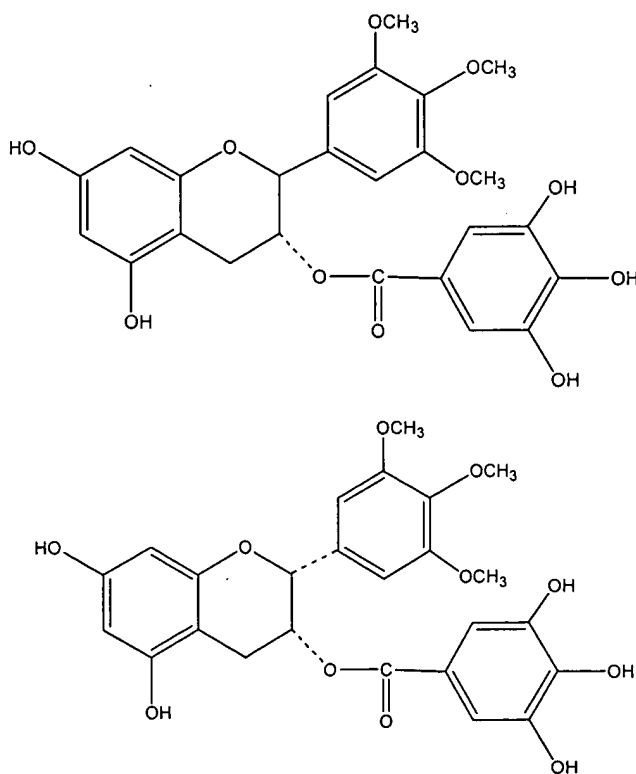
R^6 , and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxyl, methyl, and methoxy.

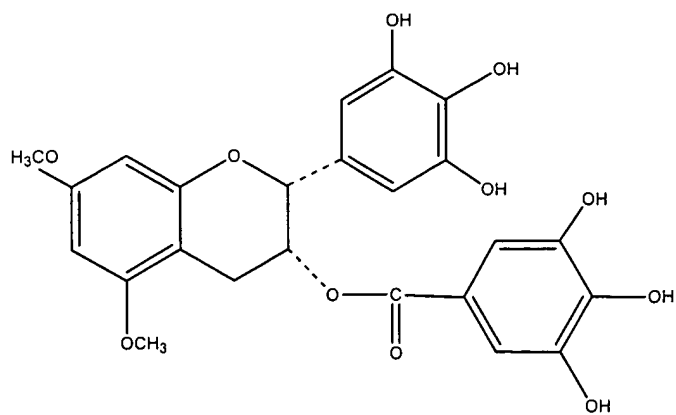
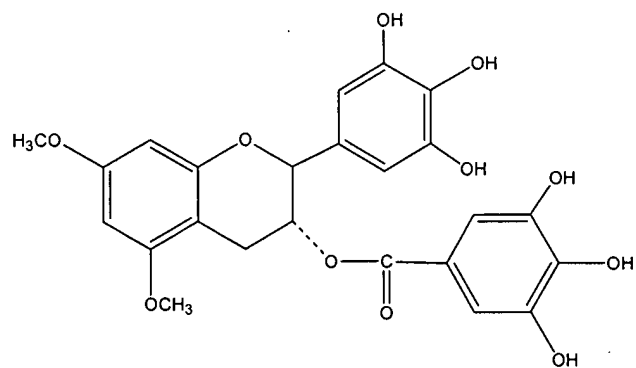
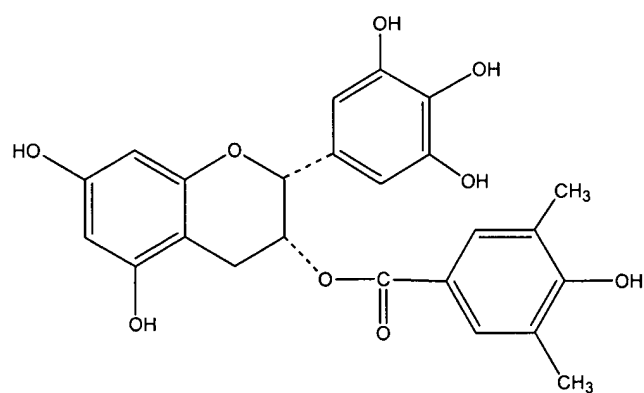
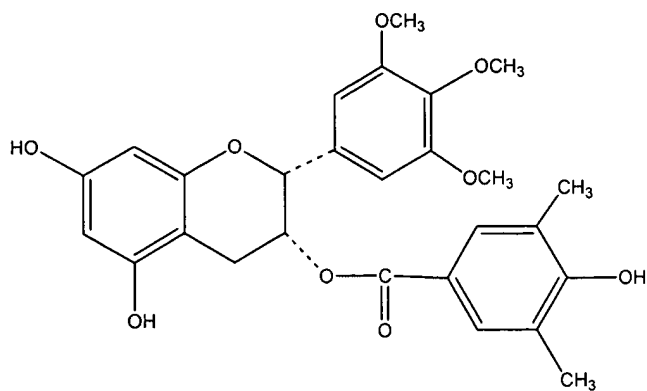
14. An analog of (-)-epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), wherein the analog contains at least one modification relative to EGCG that results in an IC_{50} of less than 60 when the analog is evaluated for its ability to inhibit growth in a breast cancer cell line using MTT assay.

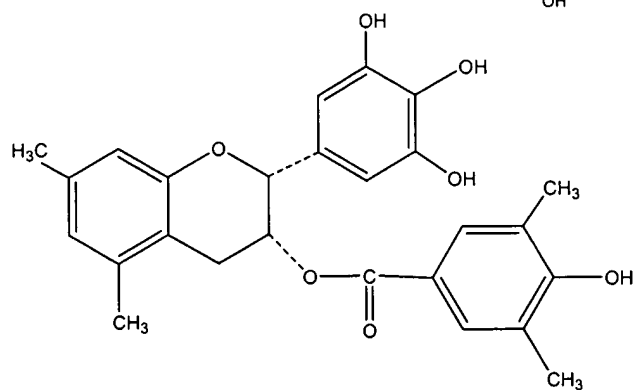
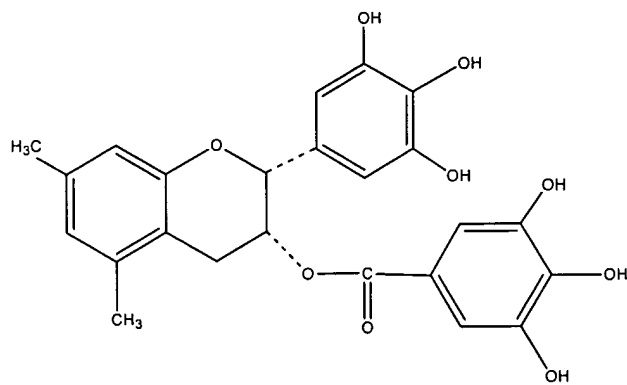
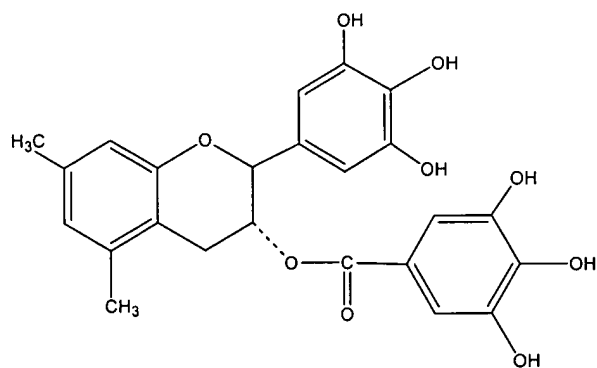
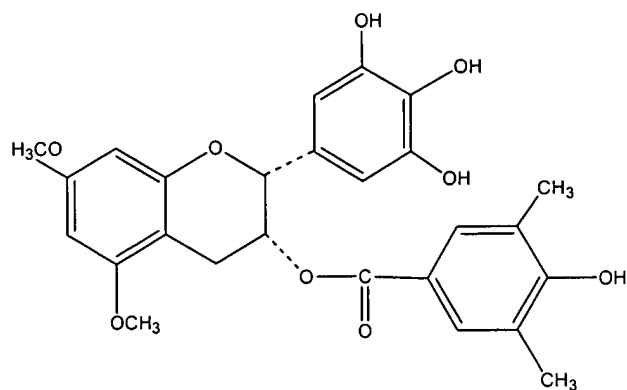
15. The analog of claim 14, wherein the analog contains at least one modification relative to EGCG that results in an IC_{50} of less than 25 when the analog is evaluated for its ability to inhibit growth in a breast cancer cell line using MTT assay.

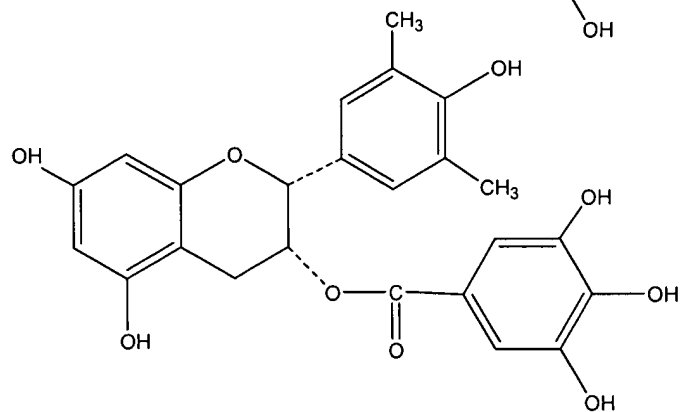
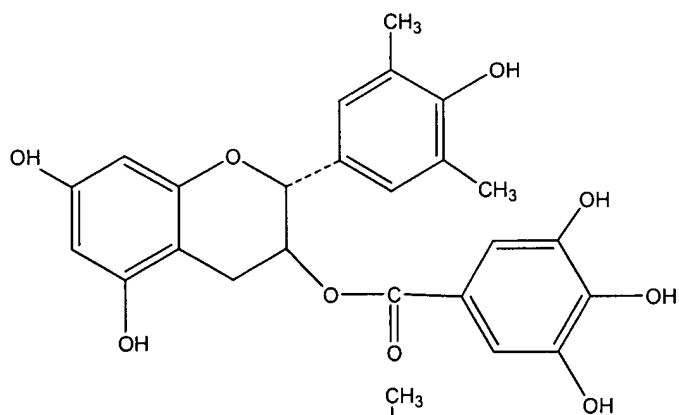
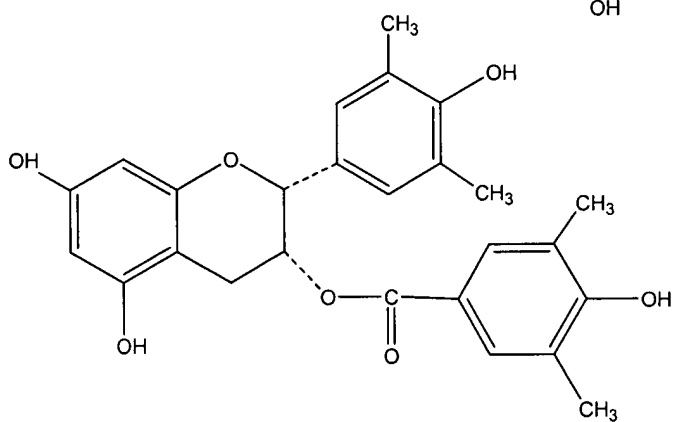
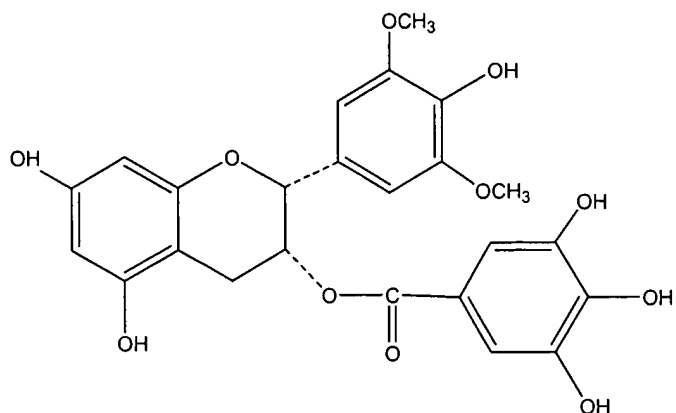
16. The analog of claim 15, wherein the analog contains at least one modification relative to EGCG that results in an IC_{50} of less than 15 when the analog is evaluated for its ability to inhibit growth in a breast cancer cell line using MTT assay.

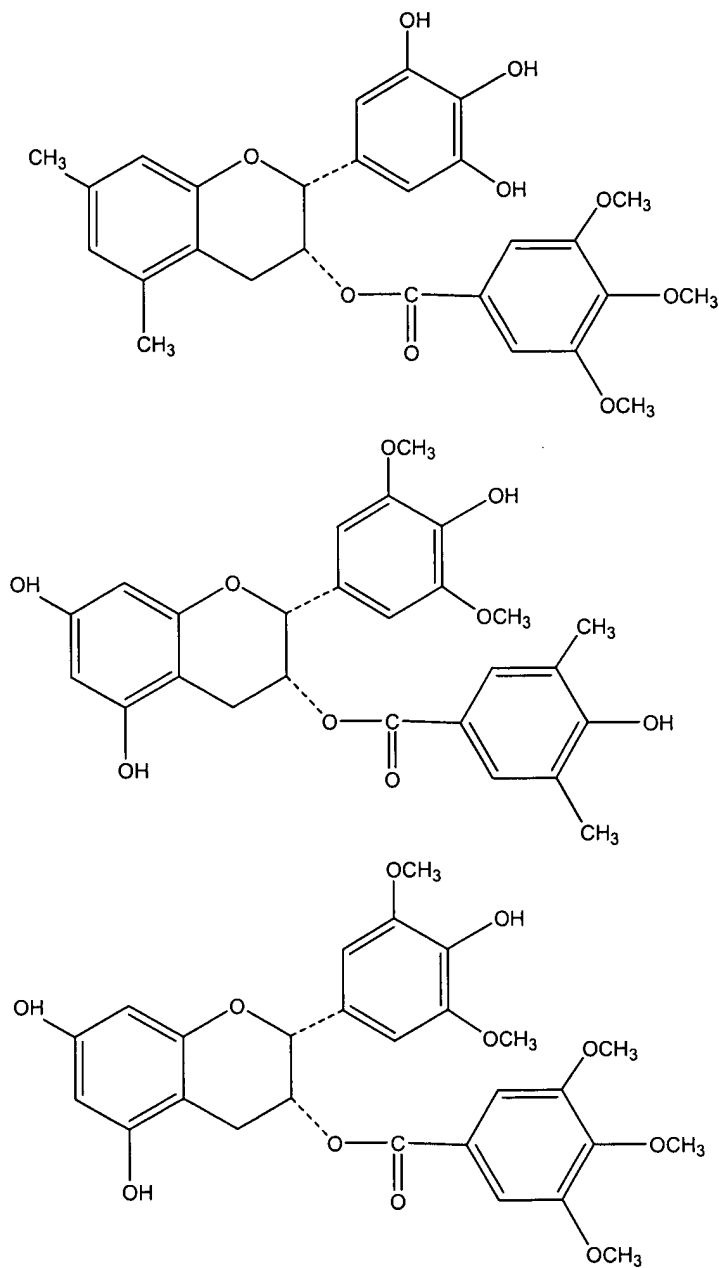
17. A compound having the structural formula selected from











18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 3 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 4 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 5 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 6 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 8 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 9 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 15 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. The composition of any one of claims 18 through 25, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral administration and the composition comprises an oral dosage form.

27. The composition of claim 26, wherein the oral dosage form is a tablet.

28. The composition of claim 26, wherein the oral dosage form is a capsule.

29. The composition of any one of claims 18 through 25, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral administration and the composition comprises a parenterally administrable formulation.

30. A method for treating a patient suffering from cancer, comprising administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 1.

31. A method for treating a patient suffering from cancer, comprising administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 3.

32. A method for treating a patient suffering from cancer, comprising administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 4.

33. A method for treating a patient suffering from cancer, comprising administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 5.

34. A method for treating a patient suffering from cancer, comprising administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 6.

35. A method for treating a patient suffering from cancer, comprising administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 8.

36. A method for treating a patient suffering from cancer, comprising administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 9.

37. A method for treating a patient suffering from cancer, comprising administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 15.

38. The method of any one of claims 30 through 37, wherein the cancer is prostate cancer, uterine cancer, or breast cancer.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the cancer is breast cancer.

40. A chemopreventive method comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 to a patient susceptible to developing cancer.

41. A chemopreventive method comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 3 to a patient susceptible to developing cancer.

42. A chemopreventive method comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 4 to a patient susceptible to developing cancer.

43. A chemopreventive method comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 5 to a patient susceptible to developing cancer.

44. A chemopreventive method comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 6 to a patient susceptible to developing cancer.

45. A chemopreventive method comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 8 to a patient susceptible to developing cancer.

46. A chemopreventive method comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 9 to a patient susceptible to developing cancer.

47. A chemopreventive method comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 15 to a patient susceptible to developing cancer.